11: Karolyi E-4, 5 (no date) 1931? EC1 Hungary EC1

585 weds. This meal is followed by the handing of the wedding-presents to the bride.

All the time messenger after messenger is sent on behalf of the bridegroom urging the bride to get ready for the final departure. As in the morning, the arriving bridegroom is again hindered by a feinted struggle and a prearranged discussion. Finally consent is given, the best man pronounces the bride's farewell, and the deeply veiled, crying bride mounts into the carriage which is to take her to her new home. The carriages are gaily beribboned, the horse and the whip are decorated with coloured cracknel wreaths. In the rear carriage the gypsy band plays tune after tune, and if the trip is long, or if the bridegroom is from another village, at leaving the village boundaries all descend to take part in the so-called "station-dance".

[591] Meanwhile everything has been prepared at the bridegroom's house for the bride's reception. She is greeted on the doorstep by her mother-in-law, who offers her welcome and a lump of sugar with the words: "May your stay in our house be as sweet as this lump of sugar". The womenfolk of her new family throw upon her a handful of wheat, symbol of fertility. Before entering, the bride has to cross the embers of birchwood. This is called the "singeing of the bride" and symbolizes her purification. The bride's request for admittance is followed by a solemn welcome. She is shown into the house and taken to the fireplace, where often a burning torch, the symbol of vigilance, is handed to her. Afterwards she partakes of the first meal with her husband, during which they eat from the same plate and drink from the same glass. Sometimes only the man eats, with the bride standing by. This is a symbol of service and obedience.

A thousand little local customs, the purpose of which